

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66617

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APPROVED BY: IO:RREIS

NEA:EABINGTON

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R 301813Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 232454

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 4548 SENT SECSTATE DATED SEPT 26.

QUOTE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4548

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGAN PR

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24

REF: A. STATE 229493

B. USUN 3778

C. USUN 4505

1. PARA 7 OF REF A INSTRUCTS ADDRESSEES IN COUNTRIES WHICH SUPPORTED US ON POSTPONEMENT OF THE RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 ONCE AGAIN TO EXPRESS US APPRECIATION FOR THAT SUPPORT.

2. WE BELIEVE THIS MAY BE THE WRONG TACK TO TAKE SEMANTICALLY. WE FIND THAT DELEGATIONS PREFER US TO EXPRESS SATISFACTION THAT PRINCIPLES WHICH WE SHARE WITH THEM WERE THE MOTIVATION FOR THEIR VOTE ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE. WE BELIEVE THAT EXPRESSING THANKS FOR SUPPORT POLITICIZES THE ISSUE AND PLAYS INTO THE HANDS OF THE CUBANS WHO REPEATEDLY ALLEGED DURING THE COURSE OF THE DEBATE OVER PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 THAT WHAT WAS AT STAKE WAS NOT THE INDEPENDENCE OF PUERTO RICO BUT THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ITSELF-- FROM US PRESSURE.

3. WE REPORTED (REF. B) THE NEGATIVE REACTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24 TO THE HOFMANN ARTICLE IN THE AUGUST 21 NEW YORK TIMES WHICH PUBLICIZED US EFFORTS TO BRING COMMITTEE MEMBERS INTO LINE.

4. THE STRATEGY WHICH WE RECOMMEND (REF C) FOR RESOLVING OUR PROBLEMS WITH PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 AT ITS NEXT SESSION DEPENDS VERY MUCH ON NOT RUBBING SALT INTO THE WOULDDED SENSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

5. RECOMMENDATION: THAT WE NOT, STRICLY SPEAKING, "THANK" COUNTRIESWHICH ARE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24 FOR THEIR SUPPORT; RATHER, THAT WE EXPRESS OUR CONFIDENTIAL

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SATISFACTION THAT ON THIS IMPORTANT MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, THEIR POSITION AND OURS COINCIDES.
MOYNIHAM UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE232454
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/UNP:MWILLIAMSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750339-0899
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975094/aaaaadfe.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 229493
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24
TAGS: PFOR, PORQ, RQ, US, XX, UNGA, COMMITTEE OF 24
To: KABUL MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006